

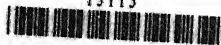
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Consequences of Migration Characteristics and its Effect on the Pattern of Income Distribution

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CONSEQUENCES OF MIGRATION CHARACTERISTICS
AND ITS EFFECT ON THE PATTERN OF
INCOME DISTRIBUTION

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G.S. Mehta*

The trend of migration has changed its shape in modern era due to the complexities of the socio-economic structure. There are international, inter-regional, inter-state, inter-district, and rural - urban forms of migration. An increasing trend of migration has been empirically evidenced from rural to urban areas. The migration of population from rural to urban areas has taken place because of several causes. However, the level of poverty existing in rural areas has been indicated as the most important cause which is forcing the rural population to migrate in search of employment opportunities in urban areas in order to send remittances

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for suppling the income of their households at the native place. Other kinds of migration are related with education, social and political motivation and tend to affect a smaller size of population belonging to the economically well off section of the society. However, the migration from higher economic groups is found to be at significantly lower proportion which is motivated with the desire to obtain prestigious white collar jobs. Nevertheless, a higher propensity of migration is found among the lowest income group of population followed by highest income group of population.¹ Lipton² in his study also finds that the migrants belong to very poor, landless, and illiterates are found to be having higher frequency of migration, which is due to the fact that their poor socio-economic condition forces them to migrate. The second important category of migrants fall within highest economic group, well educated workers who are more likely to be pulled. On the other hand, John Connel's³ study reveals that both poor and higher income group strata of population have similar tendency of migration. However, migration of both these strata depends upon the availability of resource structure.

Beside this, inequality and variations in resource and income distribution are important influencing variables which lead to the migration of people from less resource or less opportunity areas to greater opportunity and resource areas in search of employment, income generation and betterment of

life. In otherwords, population tends to migrate from low opportunity areas such as rural or underdeveloped areas to higher opportunity areas such as larger and well developed cities or towns to get the opportunity of socio-economic and cultural development. Thus the intensity of migration from rural areas is intimately associated with the degree of unevenness in the distribution of resources.⁴

In the rural areas the availability of social infrastructure, economic opportunity such as employment, and income, are comparatively less than in the urban areas. Therefore, the flow of migration from rural to larger cities is more common followed by migration to small towns and cities.⁵ Consequently, the lower level of wages in rural areas or in underdeveloped and developing areas leads the population to shift to higher wage areas such as urban or developed areas.⁶ Moreover, the lower level of wage availability in agriculture sector tend to influence the rural population into higher wage paid modern industrial sectors in urban areas.

Expected wages availability in urban areas is, therefore, an equally important determinant of migration by which the population living in rural areas is influenced to migrate to urban areas. Confirmation in this context of wage differential is highlighted in the Hay⁷ study of migration relating to Tunisia. He finds, urban earning functions are proxy variables defining the urban expected income levels.

Similar findings are available in the Carvajal study.⁸ He finds that the differences in average income or wage levels between two places invariably turn up among the most important explanatory factors. Thus migration is positively associated with the urban wages and negatively related to the rural wage rate.

Similar findings in relation to job opportunity probability in urban areas as compared to rural areas is explained in the study of Struat and Gregory.⁹ Combining both the assumptions of wage income and job probability variables the study of Levy¹⁰ reveals that the job probability variables appears to have independent statistical significance and to add to the overall explanatory power of the regression when isolated from the related or absolute income differential variable. Moreover, the wage and probability variables are combined to form an expected wage variable, the result is a definite improvement over the normal wage rate in terms of the amount of variation explained.

Migration motivated with direction pattern is a considerably important variable that influences people in making their decision for migration. Before migration one has to examine the pattern of the availability of opportunities in different cities and towns. With the knowledge of right kind of direction selection, people begin to migrate.¹¹ Main sources affecting the direction pattern are the presence of friends and relatives at the intended place of migration since

through them they obtain information about the potential job opportunities.¹²

Migration generally occurs due to a complex interaction of push and pull factors¹³ and it generally takes place when the positive pull factor at the place of destination is outnumbered by negative push factors at the place of origin.¹⁴ The migration motivated with pull factors refers to the kind of attraction and personal willingness of people that attracts people into the cities and urban areas whereas the push factor refers to conditional migration where people migrate due to some economic compulsions, natural calamities, political and cultural pressures etc. The migration from rural to urban area is generally motivated by both push and pull factors. However, the magnitude of rural - urban migration is identically related to the push factors¹⁵ as a result of limited opportunities of employment in rural agricultural sector and higher employment opportunities in urban modern industrial sector.

Further more, the hypothesis related to the socio-economic benefit of migration availed by migrants is another important issue. The studies undertaken during the recent past have examined this hypothesis considering several aspects of various benefits. It is generally believed that the migrants receive significant amount of benefits in relation to socio-economic, cultural, environmental and political betterment on one hand and migrants get physical attributes in the place of origin.¹⁶ However, in the case of underdeveloped countries migration has negligible or no effect. It is due to the

that the rate of migration is comparably very small and migration is generally for a shorter duration. Even in the case of those migrants who have remained away from their native place for a longer period, there is little tendency for permanent migration. The migrants normally tend to return to their place of origin.

Finally we may conclude that the migration could have immediate or a lasting effect on the pattern of income distribution in rural and urban areas. Similarly, migration affects the demographic structure since the migration of people tends to decrease the population strength at the place of origin and increase it at the destination.¹⁸ On the other hand, the magnitude of migration could have negative or positive effect on the employment and income pattern at the place of migration and the native place.

Keeping in view the basic findings of the various studies which have been mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, an attempt is being made to study the characteristics of migration and its effects on the income distribution of migration on an empirical basis. For this, we have selected a sample of 205 migrant households from the hill region of Uttar Pradesh.

Case Study:

This study was conducted in the rural areas of district Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh. For the study two villages namely Farsali Palli and Jarti from district Almora and village Uprada from district Pithoragarh were chosen. Information was collected through personal interview with the households, regarding various aspects which have influenced the village

population to migrate outside the village. Moreover, data was also collected with the help of structured questionnaires, to examine the socio-economic conditions of migrant households and the characteristics of migrants who have migrated.

Sample:

Selection of villages was made with the classification of geographical location of the villages and the availability of infrastructural facilities such as road connection with the village. This kind of procedure was basically based with the intention that transport, facility and geographical factors are amongst the most important factors in the migration of population from one area to another. With this criterion, one village from each district which were well connected with the road, were chosen and one village from district Almora which was away from road side was chosen for the study. While selecting the sample households, it was assumed that every individual, whether he belongs to higher or smaller land holding size may have similar kind of migration tendency. It was first decided to select the sample based on the size of land holdings. However, since the average land holding size was very small and the variation between the highest and lowest land holders was also small the sample was finally drawn on a random basis from those households which had at least one migrant member.

Socio-Economic Structure of Hill Region

The hill region of Uttar Pradesh distinguishes itself from the rest of the plain areas with respect to its heterogenous

topography pronounced by vast mountainous tract to the north. The region has scattered population living on small arable land. Thus, the main source of livelihood of the population is agriculture. Due to the subsistence nature of agriculture and a very high percentage of area under forests only 16.70 per cent land area is used under cultivation of agricultural crops.¹⁹ The increasing pressure of population has led to division and fragmentation of land resulting in small and uneconomic holdings giving low yields. In the absence of other non-agricultural activities available in the area, the population has only the agricultural sector for employment and income avenues. Therefore, as a result of lack of employment opportunities and income source in the hill region, a high majority of population tends to migrate to the urban areas of the plains. Thus one can conclude that the basic purpose of migration of people from hill areas is related to seeking employment and better income opportunity. Accordingly the main motivation of migration relates to the generation of a sizeable amount of income at the place of migration so as to contribute to the relatively low household income at the native place. The general tendency of migration is that the people from the areas migrate individually leaving their family at the native place and visit them from time to time, particularly during the agricultural season.

Locational Pattern:

Factors such as geographical and locational pattern of all the sample villages are almost similar. All the villages are

located at large distances from their respective district headquarters ranging from 30 kms. to 95 kms. However, if we look at the location from any town than the distance of the nearest town from village Jarti is 10 kms., Farsali Palli 26 kms. and Uprada 30 kms. Looking at the development of other infrastructural facilities it is seen that electricity is not available in any of the three villages. However village Farsali Palli and Uprada are well connected with the road but village Jarti is located 8 kms. away from the road side. The availability of primary school facility is found in all the sample villages, however the middle school is available in village Farsali Palli and Uprada only. The high school and beyond the high school facilities are available only after covering considerable distances from all the villages. The educational facilities of high school and above are relatively nearer to village Jarti and Farsali Palli as compared to village Uprada.

Pattern of Land holding distribution:

In all the three villages the size of land holdings is small. Around 9 per cent households fall under the category of small and marginal farmers and have less than 2.5 acres of land for cultivation. Similarly, the landless households account for 5.43 per cent and households having more than 2.5 acres land accounts 3.14 per cent. Among the marginal and small farming households, the highest number of 55.11 per cent households have less than 1.50 acres holdings. The landless households in village Farsali Palli accounts 13.10

TABLE-1 : PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO LAND HOLDING SIZE

(Area in Acres)

Sl. No.	Land holding size	Farsali Palli	Jarti	Uprada	Total
1.	Landless	13.10	1.40	4.88	5.43
2.	less than - 0.50	26.19	15.38	28.46	22.54
3.	0.50 - 1.00	25.00	42.66	26.02	32.57
4.	1.00 - 1.50	15.48	22.38	15.45	18.29
5.	1.50 - 2.00	13.10	11.19	14.63	12.86
6.	2.00 - 2.50	5.95	4.20	6.50	5.14
7.	2.50 and above	1.95	2.80	4.07	3.14
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

per cent, Jarti 1.40 per cent and in Uprada 4.88 per cent. The households having more than 2.50 acres of land holdings account 1.19 per cent in Farsali Palli 2.80 per cent in Jarti and 4.07 per cent in Uprada.

Land Holdings of Migrants:

Analysing the pattern of land holdings of migrants households, it is noticed that migration is higher in the case of people who have smaller size of land holdings. Majority of migrants (42.43 per cent) thus belong to land holding size of less than 1.00 acre while the lowest proportion of migrants (8.78 per cent) have more than 2.50 acres land holding and the migrants from landless households constitutes 10.24 per cent. Looking into the pattern of migration at village levels, we find that the proportion of migration from each category of land holding size is almost similar in the case of all the three villages. The highest number of migrants of village Farsali Palli are

TABLE-2 : DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY LAND HOLDING SIZE

Sl. No.	Land Holdings (in Acres)	Farsali Palli	Jarti	Uprada	Total
1.	Landless	7(26.92)	2(2.15)	12(13.96)	21(10.24)
2.	Less than 1.00	7(26.92)	42(45.16)	38(44.18)	87(42.43)
3.	1.00 - 2.50	10(38.46)	40(43.01)	29(33.72)	79(38.53)
4.	2.50 and above	2(7.69)	9(9.67)	7(8.13)	18(8.78)
	Total	26(100.00)	93(100.00)	86(100.00)	205(100.00)

(Bracketed are percentages to row totals)

however, from the land holdings consisting 1.00 to 2.50 acres, while, the majority of migrants of village Jarti and Uprada belong to the group having less than 1.00 acre landholdings. The lowest percentage of migrants in all villages are found in the land holding size of more than 2.50 acres.

Income Level of Migrants:

While it is true that the basic cause of migration is low levels of income and lack of job opportunities at the native place, the actual degree of migration is positively related to the expected earnings at the place of migration. A higher of proportion/migrants are found in the low income groups and the intensity of migration starts declining among succeeding higher income groups of population, despite the fact that migration is motivated from all category of income groups. Examining the pattern of income distribution and the trend of migration at village levels, the picture of migration characteristics noticed in all the villages are almost similar. The economic

TABLE-3 : DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY HOUSEHOL INCOME LEVELS
(Per Annum in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Income Groups	Farsali Palli	Jarti	Uprada	Total
1.	Less than 1000	2(7.69)	17(18.27)	69(80.23)	88(42.92)
2.	1000 - 2000	9(34.61)	27(29.03)	13(15.11)	49(23.90)
3.	2000 - 3000	9(34.61)	17(18.27)	2(2.32)	28(13.65)
4.	3000 - 4000	5(19.23)	21(22.58)	---	26(12.68)
5.	4000 - 5000	---	4(4.30)	2(2.32)	6(2.92)
6.	5000 - 6000	1(3.84)	2(2.15)	---	3(1.46)
7.	6000 and above	---	5(5.37)	---	5(1.46)
	Total	26(100.00)	93(100.00)	86(100.00)	205(100)

(Bracketed are percentages to row totals)

conclusion of the work force forces them to migrate outside their villages. The highest propensity of migration is found among the people with groups. These kinds of indications are clear while we analyse the income and migration characteristics of each village, particularly Uprada.

Thus viewing the distribution pattern of resources such as land and income among the households in various villages we find that inequality in the income opportunity is a basic cause and effect which influences the migration of the population from one place to another. The smaller size of land holdings and insufficient amount of income for maintaining the households living is invariably pushing the working age population outside the village.

Demographic and Migration Structure:

Prior to the initiation of migration the villages had a population of 1835 consisting 49.70 per cent workforce. Out of

TABLE-4 : DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURE AND MIGRATION STRUCTURE OF WORKING POPULATION IN DIFFERENT VILLAGES

Village	Total Population	Working Population	Population migrated	% of migrated population to working population.
Farsal Palli	368	152	26	20.63
Jarti	781	414	93	28.97
Uprada	686	346	86	33.08
Total	1835	912	205	29.00

this total workforce of the three villages, 29 per cent have migrated outside their respective villages to seek employment and income opportunities. A larger extent of migration is noticed in Uprada (33.8 per cent) followed by Jarti (28.97) and Farsali Palli (20.63 per cent).

Educational Levels:

Educational level of individuals is an important parameter influencing migration motivation and mobility pattern. Individuals with higher level of education tend to migrate more frequently to different places and different wage paid ranges of occupations even when the mobility is over a larger distance as compared to the lesser educated individuals. The mobility approach of education is not only reflected by movement of individuals in different places but it is also reflected by securing a substantial improvements in the better job opportunities in terms of wages, status and conditions. On the other hand individuals with inadequate level of education are

TABLE-5 : DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Farsali Palli	Jarti	Uprada	Total
1.	Illiterate	2(7.69)	6(6.25)	9(10.47)	17(8.29)
2.	Primary School	--	10(10.42)	6(6.98)	16(7.80)
3.	Middle School	8(30.77)	32(33.33)	18(20.93)	58(28.29)
4.	High School	8(30.77)	31(33.33)	20(23.26)	59(28.78)
5.	Intermediate	6(23.08)	10(10.75)	25(29.07)	41(20.00)
6.	Graduate	1(3.85)	1(1.08)	6(6.98)	8(3.90)
7.	Post Graduate and above	1(3.85)	2(2.15)	3(3.49)	6(2.93)
	Total	26(100.00)	93(100.00)	86(100.00)	205(100.00)

(Bracketed are percentage to row totals)

unable to take advantage of the opportunities which exist, and do not fare as well as those with higher educational qualifications. Thus the educational attainment becomes a prerequisite for availment of better white collar jobs with higher earnings.

The general feelings are that the propensity of migration is mostly governed by the economic condition of the migrants followed by the level of education. However, the propensity of migration could be higher among the individuals which have higher level of education. It is due to the fact that there exist greater rural-urban differentials in the income opportunity of higher educated individuals as compared to less educated individuals. In relation to the sample villages, it is revealed that the tendency of migration among individuals

with different levels of educational attainment have been almost similar. However, significantly a higher numbers of migrants have secondary level of education followed by illiterates and higher education. Analysing the village level data the picture of migration follows the pattern as already outlined above.

Age:

Age component plays an important role in migration. Since population in the working age group are in a better position to enter the workforce at the place of migration. Migration begins at an early age in case where the households are at very low levels of income. The migrant not only reduces the family burden at his native place but can also at times remit money to supplement the low incomes of his household. Examining the sample data it is revealed that the out migration of population appears to be selective and it is well testified by the fact that an overwhelming majority (60.98 per cent) of migrants moved out at a young age i.e. the age group of 20 and 25 years. Migration of population with less than 15 years age group accounts for about 14 per cent. Several studies undertaken in the past in various Asian countries and other developing countries also reveal that the tendency of migration is higher among the individuals between the age of 15 and 30 years as compared to the individuals in the higher and lower age groups. The village level data reveals that the majority of population has migrated at an average age of 21 years.

TABLE-6 : DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY AGE AT MIGRATION

Sl. No.	Age Group (Years)	Farsali Palli		Jarti		Uprada		Total	
		No. of Migrants	Average age	No. of Migrants	Average age	No. of Migrants	Average age	No. of Migrants	Average age
1.	Less than 15	1 (3.85)	14.00	1 (1.08)	14.00	3 (3.49)	14.33	5 (2.44)	14.20
2.	15 - 20	3 (11.54)	17.67	22 (23.66)	17.91	20 (23.26)	16.45	14 (21.95)	17.24
3.	20 - 25	15 (57.59)	21.33	60 (64.52)	21.00	50 (58.14)	21.33	125 (60.98)	21.18
4.	25 - 30	4 (15.38)	26.00	8 (8.60)	26.63	6 (6.98)	27.50	18 (8.78)	26.78
5.	30 - 35	2 (7.69)	30.00	1 (1.08)	32.00	4 (4.65)	31.00	7 (3.41)	30.86
6.	35 and above	1 (3.85)	35.00	1 (1.08)	40.00	3 (3.49)	36.50	5 (2.44)	37.80
Total		26 (100.00)	22.54	93 (100.00)	21.00	86 (100.00)	21.36	205 (100.00)	21.35

(Bracketed are percentages of row totals)

Family size

An assessment of the data on family size and the trend of migration reveals that there is a direct relationship between the larger family size and migration. Around 28 per cent of migrants had a family size of above 7 members while only 10.24 per cent migrants had a family size of less than 3 members. The relative position at the village levels is almost similar with respect to family size of upto 3. However, a higher trend of migration is noticed in Jarti in the family between 6 to 7 members, in Farsali Palli with above 7 members while in village Uprada the family group of 6 to 7 and above 7 members has

TABLE-7 : DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS BY FAMILY SIZE

Village/ Family size	Upto 3	4 - 5	6 - 7	above 7	Total
Farsali Palli	1(3.85)	5(19.23)	9(34.62)	11(42.31)	26(100.00)
Jarti	8(8.60)	31(33.33)	36(38.71)	18(19.35)	93(100.00)
Uprada	12(13.95)	17(19.77)	29(33.72)	28(32.56)	86(100.00)
Total	21(10.24)	53(25.85)	74(36.10)	57(27.80)	205(100.00)

(Bracketed are percentages to totals)

around 33 per cent migrants each. The migration from the family size of less than 3 members is noticed to be low in all villages. Thus, we find that the trend of migration is found increasing as we move from the lower to higher family size. The lower size of land holdings and lower income opportunities in the area forces the working population to start migrating outside the area for alternative job opportunities in order to generate incomes not only for their own livelihood but also to be able to contribute to their household earnings within the village.

Benefits of Migration

Let us begin with the general assumption that the migration motivated with employment and economic considerations may have both negative as well as positive effects. However, the studies carried out in the past reveal that the migration of individuals is generally associated with economic betterment. Although the amount of benefits received by migrants could be low or negligible during the initial stages of migration, the benefits tend to increase after some period spent at the place of destination by migrants.²¹ Benefit of migration is thought to be good not only

for individuals that have migrated but for the country as a whole.²² With the initiation of migration an individual improves his socio-economic, cultural and environmental status, besides the availment of several physical and social infrastructural opportunities. On the other hand, with the extensive and greater mobility of population, the economic development of the country is favourably influenced by the interaction of labour supply and demand conditions.²³

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As already indicated earlier, the inadequate levels of incomes of households and the lack of opportunities of income generation in the area, a larger segments of population is influenced to migrate in search of employment and better income opportunities to the urban areas. In the proceeding analysis an attempt is being made regarding the benefits of migration and the extent to which migrants have succeeded in increasing the economic conditions of their family members at the native place. For this an examination has been made on following conceptual framework.

1. Income contribution of migrants population for their households before initiating migration and after migration from the place of destinations.
2. Changes in the income level of households after getting migration of anyone individual from the households.
3. Effect of migration in the pattern of income distribution among the different income group of population in different villages.

Besides this, an examination has also been made to indentify the frequency and share of income contribution through remittances by people belonging to different income groups of households and the proportionate changes that has taken place in relation to the improvement of economic conditions of different income groups of households.

Pattern of Income Contribution by Migrants

Examining the pattern of income contribution of migrants to their households at the native place before initiating migration and after migration, it appears that migration has resulted in significant economic benefits. It is also noticed that the population had been neither utilising their skills, knowledge and working capacity in their native place due to non-availability of opportunities of employment and income generation. Such assumption can be proved if we look at the quantum of income contribution pattern of migrants before migration at their native place and the contribution which is made through remittances from the place of migration. Considering the village level data, we notices that the average contribution of migrants has raised four-times in village Farsali Palli, about three-times in village Jarti and ten-times in village Uprada. Comparing the income contribution pattern of population before migration in different villages, it was examined that the economic conditions of households in Uprada has improved much more as compared to the other villages. In village Uprada a 47.67 per cent of population was contributing a very small

amount of income accounting for less than Rs.100 before migration, whereas the contribution has increased to Rs.1519 per annum after migration.

Effects of Migration on Income Distribution

Migration motivated with economic need leads to better economic benefit both at the native place of migrants as well as at the destination. It is through significant amount of income contribution to the natives and supply of required manpowers for economic development at the destination. Migration remains the only alternative for working population in the lesser opportunity areas which forces people to move to higher opportunity areas for the betterment of socio-economic improvement of their households. A relatively higher extent of benefit from migration can be observed in the case of those individuals who were able to contribute only small amount of income to their household prior to migration as compared to those who could assist their families by a greater amount in monetary terms. The migrants from the higher income groups tend to send lesser remittances because their families at native are already well off and also because their own expenditure levels are high. On the other hand, population with lower income group are always concerned with the poor economic conditions of their households which compels them to spend lower amount of incomes on themselves at the place of destination and contribute as much as possible towards their families at home. Thus, considering this phenomenon in

TABLE-9 : PATTERN OF INCOME CONTRIBUTION BY MIGRANTS TO THEIR HOUSEHOLDS
BEFORE INITIATING MIGRATION AND AFTER MIGRATION

Income con- tribution Sl. groups (Per annum in Rs.)	Farasali Palli			Jartti			Uprada			Total		
	No. of migr- ants	Ave. Income		No. of Migr- ants	Ave. Income		No. of Migr- ants	Ave. Income		No. of migr- ants	Average Income	
		Before Migr- ation	After Migr- ation		Before Migr- ation	After Migr- ation		Before Migr- ants	After Migr- ants		Before Migr- ants	After Migr- ants
01. 100	--	--	--	5 (5.38)	72	280	41 (47.67)	65	1519	46 (22.44)	65	1424
02. 100-150	2 (7.69)	100	1900	8 (8.60)	125	1106	14 (16.28)	123	1404	24 (11.71)	121	1433
03. 150-200	2 (7.69)	178	1050	5 (5.38)	170	1080	15 (17.44)	178	1043	22 (10.73)	176	1052
04. 200-250	4 (15.38)	215	1225	10 (10.75)	220	1050	9 (10.47)	214	1467	23 (11.22)	217	1243
05. 250-300	1 (3.85)	264	1800	4 (4.30)	263	925	2 (2.33)	273	1450	7 (3.41)	266	1200
06. 300-350	5 (19.23)	310	1300	11 (11.83)	307	1254	1 (1.16)	343	3600	17 (8.29)	310	1188
07. 350-400	5 (19.23)	379	1200	10 (10.75)	369	1063	1 (1.16)	395	800	16 (7.80)	373	1248
08. 400-450	2 (7.69)	431	1050	8 (8.60)	474	1594	--	--	--	10 (4.88)	425	1725
09. 450-500	1 (3.85)	450	800	3 (3.23)	467	1900	--	--	--	4 (1.95)	462	1567
10. 500 & above	4 (15.38)	859	967	29 (31.18)	836	1029	3 (3.45)	599	5300	36 (17.56)	822	1426
Total/ Average	26 (100.00)	364	1428	83 (100.00)	451	1198	86 (100.00)	140	1465	205 (100.00)	310	1323

Bracketed figures are percentages to total number of migrants.

view, it could be derived that the migration of lower income group population leads to a better income contribution to their households and also helps in reducing the income inequalities among the different income groups in the village. Examining the increase in the household incomes with the initiation of migration it is seen that the income level of migrant households at the native place has raised nearly two-times more as compared to pre-migration period. Looking at the households according to income groups, it is noticed that almost all households whether they fall in lower or higher income groups, the average income of households have increased their average household income significantly after migration. However, the increase in income of lower income group households has increased to a much higher degree as compared to households with higher income groups. But in absolute terms the income of upper income group households is still higher as compared to lower income group households despite the fact that they are receiving lower amount of contribution from the migrants from within this income group. This is due to the fact that households falling into higher income groups had very high amount of income levels even before the initiation of migration of their family members.

Analysing the changes in the pattern of income distribution that has resulted from migration, in different villages, it is revealed that higher incremental changes in income level has taken place in village Uprada followed by village Jarti

TABLE-10 : DISTRIBUTION OF INCOMES OF MIGRANTS HOUSEHOLDS & AVERAGE INCOME BEFORE
MIGRATION AND AFTER MIGRATION

(Per Annum in Rs.)

Sl. Income No. group (in Rs.)	Farsali Palli		Jarti		Uprada		All Villages					
	No. of house- hold	Income before migra- tion	Income after migra- tion	No. of house- hold	Income before migra- tion	Income after migra- tion	No. of house- hold	Income before migra- tion	Income after migra- tion			
01. --- 1000	2	900.00	8700.00	17	655.88	1611.23	69	538.55	2455.72	83	569.44	2572.73
02. 1000-1500	3	1350.00	2450.00	13	1259.62	3540.36	9	1162.78	18828.33	25	1275.60	2683.60
03. 1500-2000	6	1731.00	3199.16	14	1674.79	2812.64	4	1796.25	8085.00	24	1719.05	2497.39
04. 2000-2500	6	2225.00	3608.33	6	2295.00	3670.00	1	2175.00	4575.00	13	2253.46	3711.16
05. 2500-3000	3	2568.00	3435.00	11	2727.27	7909.09	1	2790.00	3500.00	15	2693.00	4520.33
06. 3000-4000	5	3444.00	4000.00	21	3110.00	4921.41	-	---	---	26	3174.24	4744.62
07. 4000-5000	-	---	---	4	4312.50	5450.00	2	4470.00	6570.00	6	4365.00	5823.33
08. 5000-6000	1	5820.00	7320.00	2	5600.00	8000.00	-	---	---	3	5673.00	3773.33
09. 6000-7000	-	---	---	2	6550.00	10650.00	-	---	---	2	6650.00	10650.00
10. 7000 & above	-	---	---	3	9600.00	12436.67	-	---	---	3	9600.00	12436.67
Total	26	2333.00	3951.30	93	2479.59	4025.61	86	809.48	2386.10	205	1760.42	3455.56

and Farsali Palli. Greater changes in the income distribution have been noticed among the households which were in the lower income group strata than the others. Population which was falling in the lowest income group (less than Rs.1000 per annum) now has a per household income of around Rs.2500. Similarly, the population in the remaining income groups have also registered sizeable increases in their average household income. Moreover, inequality in income distribution in various villages has also been reduced to a certain extent. Considering the changes in income distribution that have been observed in our sample villages it could generally be believed that migration motivated with economic conditions is an important instrument for equalising the pattern of income distribution as well as improving the socio-economic conditions of households living in the backward rural areas like hills.

Conclusion and Main Findings

Migration of population from various villages is primarily motivated with several fundamental factors, such as socio-economic condition of households, development of road transport and communication sources, level of education of population and various geographical and physical conditions. The pattern of migration among the population of different income levels or land holding groups is almost similar. However, the proportion of migration is registered higher among the population with lower income groups or lower land holdings.

It is generally seen that in the case of extremely poor households the family members have been migrating at a very early age. Almost all the migrants are forced to migrate due to poor economic conditions of their households, growing burden of population on traditional agricultural activities and lack of opportunities of alternative income generation avenues in the respected villages. Average age of migrants at the time of migration is around 21 years and average educational qualification is middle and secondary levels.

The benefit derived by population with the initiation of migration is found quite significant. Levels of income of the migrant population was relatively quite low to begin with whereas after migration the amount of money received through remittances has raised household incomes significantly. However, the relative contribution received by way of remittances is higher in the case of lower income groups and lower in the case of the higher income groups.

Existing vast gaps in the income level or income distribution among various households in different villages has been reduced to some extent after migration. Since the lower income group households are receiving a higher proportion of remittances thereby increasing the income levels of the lower income households. Thus looking at this kind of structural changes in the pattern of income distribution, one can conclude that migration motivated with economic reasons and made from less opportunity areas to higher opportunity areas could be an important instrument for raising the income levels of lower income group households and mitigating the imbalances of income distribution patterns in less opportunity areas.

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